/197 cont./

small stick or a Pteropus bone as a net needle. The cord /198/ is strung onto this needle in loops (Fig. 45, Nos. 1 and 2) which slip off easily as the cord is used. During the plaiting the smaller nets are stretched with the great toe. The making of the knots is shown in Fig. 45, No. 3.

Political Affairs; War

Graebner's assumption (1) that the importance of the

1. [Ethn., I, p. 130.]

chief has decreased in recent times seems to be correct. I did not meet a true chief, and apparently all the men of a village decide questions of external policy. Nevertheless, there must be leaders, but they are merely the most important and the wealthiest men of a village, with no other position than that of a village elder, of a chairman in the men's house (2). They

2. [Dr. Speiser herewith verifies his assumption in Südsee, p. 299. This is probably also what O'Ferrall, section "Historical Sketch," means when he speaks of two or more chiefs in each village.]

can hardly give direct orders, but they are the nominal owners of the dance areas and the men's houses; also, their indirect influence may be considerable because of their wealth. Moreover, they sometimes indulge in the luxury of having wives in several villages, thus traveling from one village to another, and therefore have influence over extensive areas. As prominent men, after death they are shown the honors that were formerly bestowed on the chiefs.

Feuds between villages used to be very frequent and are not rare even today. The cause is almost always the